

tude this day. This measure opened the door to the American dream of opportunity for advancement to an entire generation of young Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 22, 1994, as "GI Bill of Rights Day" celebrating the 50th anniversary of enactment of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 and the subsequent legislation that has extended its promise. I encourage all Americans, as well as civic, veterans, educational, business, and news media organizations, to join me in honoring this true American success story and those veterans and visionaries who made it possible.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 22, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 23.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With King Hussein of Jordan

June 22, 1994

Middle East Peace Process

The President. First, I would like to welcome King Hussein back to the White House and to say how very much I support his courage and vision in renewing his efforts to make peace with Israel. I want to reaffirm the support of the United States for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Syrian track, and we will do whatever we can to keep those things going.

This remains a very important priority for me and for our administration. And I am very encouraged by where we are now in the whole process and especially by the efforts

that King Hussein has made. And I'm looking forward to having the chance to discuss that with him.

So, sir.

Q. What are the chances, Mr. President and King Hussein, of a trilateral settlement between you two and Prime Minister Rabin? Your Majesty.

King Hussein. I don't think it is something that has been discussed as yet, but in the future, I suppose anything and everything is possible.

Decline of the Dollar

Q. Mr. President, are you at all concerned with the dollar's fall? Your administration is not intervening as it has in the past.

The President. Well, I talked to—I spent some time yesterday on it. I talked to Secretary Bentsen again today about it. And I think that I would let him speak for us today on it. We have agreed today on what he will say and what our course will be.

Let me just emphasize that the dollar, as you know, is traded in big multinational markets with other currencies, and they go up and down. But the fundamental economic realities in this country are very strong. This is the first time in 30 years when we have had a growth in the economy, with no inflation, led by investment that will create jobs. The unemployment rate has dropped dramatically in the last year and a half; we've just passed in the first quarter of this year—the first quarter in over 15 years when there was no bank failure.

So our fundamentals are quite good. We had a record number of new business incorporations, the largest number since World War II, in 1993. I think we just have to keep working on our fundamentals and know that, in the end, the markets will have to respond to the economic realities of the American economy.

Q. Well, what do you think is wrong?

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Mr. President, speaking about dollars, Common Cause has accused you and your administration of betraying your campaign commitments on soft money for the DNC, raising a lot more over these past 18 months than the Republicans did when they were in

office. How do you respond to Common Cause's accusations?

The President. First of all, my campaign commitment is to seek campaign finance reform legislation which will put both parties on an equal footing and will give the Government of this country back more to ordinary Americans. I have supported that legislation strongly from the beginning. I still believe we're going to get a good campaign finance reform bill out of the committee and onto my desk in this session of Congress.

In the meanwhile, as I have said all along, I don't believe in unilateral disarmament. And I believe, if you will look, I've had a lot more advertising and attacks against our administration and our policy than we have had the financial wherewithal to respond to.

So, we've done our best to defend ourselves in the system that now exists. But I agree with Common Cause, we need a campaign finance reform bill. I'm going to work hard for it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the GI Bill of Rights June 22, 1994

Thank you so much, Mr. Shropshire, for that introduction and for your service to your country and for making the most of the GI bill. And thank you, Mr. Mendoza, for your service to your country and for reminding us of the future of the GI bill.

Thank you, Secretary Brown, leaders of veteran service organizations, and staff of the department of veterans administration who are here; to all the Members of Congress, Senator Robb, Senator Thurmond, Senator Jeffords, Congressman Price, Congresswoman Byrne, Congressman Sangmeister, Congresswoman Brown, Congressman Bishop; and thank you especially, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, for a lifetime of devotion to this cause. I'd like to also acknowledge three of Congressman Montgomery's colleagues in the Senate and House on the relevant committee who could not be with

us today: Senator Rockefeller, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Stump.

Before I begin, if I might, I'd like to say a brief word about a development in Brussels this morning that is in so many ways a tribute to the men and women who have worn the uniform of this country over the last 50 years. Today Russia took an important step to help shape a safer and more peaceful post-cold-war world.

As all of you know, it wasn't very many days ago that we and the Russians were able to announce that, for the first time since both of us had nuclear weapons, our nuclear weapons were no longer pointed at each other. Today, Russia made a decision to join 20 other nations of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Western Europe in NATO's Partnership For Peace, to work together on joint planning and exercises, and to commit themselves to a common future, to a unified Europe where neighbors respect their borders and do not invade them but, instead, work together for mutual security and progress.

I want to join with the Secretary of State, who was on hand for the signing in Brussels, in commending the Russian people and their leaders on this farsighted choice. And I think that all of us will join them in saying this is another step on our long road in man's everlasting quest for peace. We thank them today.

As Secretary Brown and Mr. Shropshire said in their eloquent remarks, I had the opportunity not long ago of commemorating the service of our veterans at Normandy and in the Italian campaign. Joined by some of the veterans who are here today, including General Mick Kicklighter, who did such a wonderful job in heading the committee that planned all those magnificent events, we remembered the sacrifices of the brave Americans and their Allies who freed a continent from tyranny.

Their legacy is plain to see today in the wave of democracy sweeping across a united Europe. But their legacy is also clear here at home. Fortunately, in spite of the terrible losses, most of them did come home. And with a helping hand from Uncle Sam, they sparked an explosion of American energy and industry. They built the great American mid-